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Date: December 15, 2005

Allison M. Cowan  
Allison Cowan

DOCKET NUMBER  
36856.1178

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Masato HIGUCHI et al.	Art Unit: 1734
Serial No.: 10/728,540	
Filing or 371(c) Date: December 5, 2003	Examiner: M. Mayes
Title: METHOD OF PRODUCING PIEZOELECTRIC COMPONENT AND PIEZOELECTRIC COMPONENT	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, submitted herewith are copies of four (4) references cited in the enclosed Official Communication issued in a corresponding European Patent Application. For the Examiner's convenience, we have enclosed a completed Form PTO-1449. Although a fifth reference (JP 07-176565) is cited in the enclosed Official Communication, Applicants have not listed this reference on the enclosed Form PTO 1449 because this reference was previously cited in the Notice of References Cited issued on June 23, 2005. Applicants do not submit herewith a copy of the U.S. patent references as this is no longer a U.S. Patent Office requirement.

Applicants cite Reference No. 2 because it is the U.S. equivalent of Reference No. 3.

The statement is not a representation that all of the information cited is necessarily effective as prior art against the application.

I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this statement, and that this is the first citation of these prior art references by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application. Accordingly, no fee is necessary for the filing of this statement. Should the Commissioner determine otherwise, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1353 for any fee shortages, including the petition fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

Applicants respectfully request that the cited references be made of record in the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 15, 2005

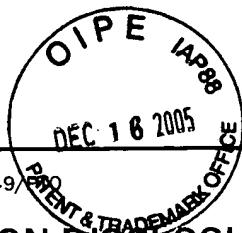
  
Attorneys for Applicants

Joseph R. Keating  
Registration No. 37,368

Christopher A. Bennett  
Registration No. 46,710

Peter M. Medley  
Registration No. 56,125

**KEATING & BENNETT LLP**  
8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 850  
Tyson's Corner, VA 22102  
Telephone: (703) 637-1480  
Facsimile: (703) 637-1499



Substitute for form 1449/

## Complete if Known

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Application Number	10/728,540
Filing Date	December 5, 2003
First Named Inventor	Masato HIGUCHI
Art Unit	1734
Examiner Name	M. Mayes
Attorney Docket Number	36856.1178

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	1	US 2001/011857	08-2001	Morishima	
	2	US 6,498,422	12-2002	Hori	

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number-Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	3	JP 2000-077970 (English abstract and machine translation)	03-2000	JAPAN		X
	4	GB 2 340 300	02-2000	United Kingdom		

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether of not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered, include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Abstract is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14.